



Area Definitions

The Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program collects crime data and supplemental information that make it possible to generate a variety of statistical compilations, including data presented by reporting areas. These statistics provide data users with the opportunity to analyze local crime data in conjunction with those for areas of similar geographic location or population size. The reporting areas that the UCR Program uses in its data breakdowns include community types, population groups, and regions and divisions. For community types, the UCR Program considers proximity to metropolitan areas using the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) designations. (Generally, sheriffs, county police, and state police report crimes within counties but outside cities; local police report crimes within city limits.) The number of inhabitants living in a locale (based on the U.S. Census Bureau's figures) determines the population group into which the Program places it. Finally, in its geographic breakdowns, the UCR Program divides the United States into regions and divisions.

Community Types

In order to assist data users who wish to analyze and present uniform statistical data about metropolitan areas, the UCR Program uses reporting units that represent major population centers. The Program compiles data for these areas according to three types of communities:

1. Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs)—Each MSA contains a principal city or urbanized area with a population of at least 50,000 inhabitants. MSAs include the principal city; the county in which the city is located; and other adjacent counties that have, as defined by the OMB, a high degree of economic and social integration with the principal city and county as measured through commuting. In the UCR Program, counties within an MSA are considered metropolitan. In addition, MSAs may cross state boundaries.

In 2006, approximately 83.1 percent of the Nation's population lived in MSAs. Some presentations in this publication refer to Metropolitan Divisions, which are subdivisions

of an MSA that consists of a core with “a population of at least 2.5 million persons. A Metropolitan Division consists of one or more main/secondary counties that represent an employment center or centers, plus adjacent counties associated with the main county or counties through commuting ties,” (*Federal Register* 65 [249]). Also, some tables reference suburban areas, which are subdivisions of MSAs that exclude the principal cities but include all the remaining cities (those having fewer than 50,000 inhabitants) and the unincorporated areas of the MSAs.

Note: Because the elements that comprise MSAs (particularly the geographic compositions), are subject to change, the Program discourages data users from making year-to-year comparisons of MSA data.

2. Cities Outside MSAs—Ordinarily, cities outside MSAs are incorporated areas. In 2006, cities outside MSAs made up 6.7 percent of the Nation’s population.

3. Nonmetropolitan Counties Outside MSAs—Most nonmetropolitan counties are composed of unincorporated areas. In 2006, 10.2 percent of the population resided in nonmetropolitan counties.

Community types are further illustrated in the following table:

Metropolitan	Nonmetropolitan
Principal Cities (50,000+ inhabitants)	Cities outside Metropolitan Areas
Suburban Cities	
Metropolitan Counties	Nonmetropolitan Counties

Population Groups

The UCR Program uses the following population group designations:

Population Group	Political Label	Population Range
I	City	250,000 and more
II	City	100,000 to 249,999
III	City	50,000 to 99,999
IV	City	25,000 to 49,999
V	City	10,000 to 24,999

VI	City ¹	Less than 10,000
VIII (Nonmetropolitan County)	County ²	N/A
IX (Metropolitan County)	County ²	N/A

¹Includes universities and colleges to which no population is attributed.

²Includes state police to which no population is attributed.

Individual law enforcement agencies are the source of UCR data. The number of agencies included in each population group may vary from year to year because of population growth, geopolitical consolidation, municipal incorporation, etc. In noncensus years, the UCR Program estimates population figures for individual jurisdictions. (A more comprehensive explanation of population estimations can be found in the methodology.)

The table below shows the number of agencies contributing to the UCR Program within each population group for 2006.

Population Group	Number of Agencies	Population Covered
I	72	54,499,586
II	189	28,264,509
III	457	31,365,930
IV	838	28,871,906
V	1,907	30,219,162
VI ¹	8,895	26,297,537
VIII (Nonmetropolitan County) ²	3,009	30,572,430
IX (Metropolitan County) ²	2,156	69,307,424
Total	17,523	299,398,484

¹Includes universities and colleges to which no population is attributed.

²Includes state police to which no population is attributed.

Regions and Divisions

The U.S. Census Bureau has established four regions of the United States along with nine subdivisions. The UCR Program uses this widely recognized geographic organization when compiling the Nation's crime data. The following table lists the 50 states and the District of Columbia arranged according to the regions and divisions of the United States.

NORTHEASTERN STATES

Middle Atlantic

New Jersey
New York
Pennsylvania

New England

Connecticut
Maine
Massachusetts
New Hampshire
Rhode Island
Vermont

MIDWESTERN STATES

East North Central

Illinois
Indiana
Michigan
Ohio
Wisconsin

West North Central

Iowa
Kansas
Minnesota
Missouri
Nebraska
North Dakota
South Dakota

SOUTHERN STATES

South Atlantic

Delaware
District of Columbia
Florida
Georgia
Maryland
North Carolina
South Carolina
Virginia
West Virginia

East South Central

Alabama
Kentucky
Mississippi
Tennessee
West South Central
Arkansas
Louisiana
Oklahoma
Texas

WESTERN STATES

Mountain

Arizona

Colorado

Idaho

Montana

Nevada

New Mexico

Utah

Wyoming

Pacific

Alaska

California

Hawaii

Oregon

Washington